

On King's holiday, daughter calls for bold action over words



A large group gathers to watch a wreath-laying ceremony at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Washington, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

By BILL BARROW
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — America has honored Martin Luther King Jr. with a federal holiday for nearly four decades yet still hasn't fully embraced and acted on the lessons from the slain civil rights leader, his youngest daughter said Monday.

The Rev. Bernice King, who leads The King Center in Atlanta, said leaders — especially politicians — too often cheapen her father's legacy into a "comfortable and convenient King" offering easy platitudes. "We love to quote King in and around the holiday. ... But then we refuse to live King 365 days of the year," she declared at the commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her father once preached.

The service, sponsored by the center and held at Ebenezer annually, headlined ob-

servances of the 38th federal King holiday. King, gunned down in Memphis in 1968 as he advocated for better pay and working conditions for the city's sanitation workers, would have celebrated his 94th birthday Sunday.

Her voice rising and falling in cadences similar to her father's, Bernice King bemoaned institutional and individual racism, economic and health care inequities, police violence, a militarized international order, hardline immigration structures and the climate crisis. She said she's "exhausted, exasperated and, frankly, disappointed" to hear her father's words about justice quoted so extensively alongside "so little progress" addressing society's gravest problems.

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On King's holiday, daughter calls for bold action over words



President Joe Biden speaks at the National Action Network's Martin Luther King, Jr., Day breakfast, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in Washington. Associated Press

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"He was God's prophet sent to this nation and even the world to guide us and forewarn us. ... A prophetic word calls for an inconvenience because it challenges us to change our hearts, our minds and our behavior," Bernice King said. "Dr. King, the inconvenient King, puts some demands on us to change our ways."

President Joe Biden was scheduled Monday to address an MLK breakfast hosted in Washington by the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network. Sharpton got his start as a civil rights organizer in his teens as youth director of an anti-poverty project of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"This is a time for choosing," Biden said, repeating themes from a speech he delivered Sunday at Ebenezer at the invitation of Sen. Raphael Warnock, the senior pastor at Ebenezer who recently won re-election to a full term as Georgia's first Black U.S. senator. "Will we choose democra-

cy over autocracy, or community over chaos? Love over hate?" Biden asked Monday. "These are the questions of our time that I ran for president to try to help answer. ... Dr. King's life and legacy — in my view — shows the way forward." Other commemorations echoed Bernice King's reminder and Biden's allusions that the "Beloved Community" — Martin Luther King's descriptor for a world in which all people are free from fear, discrimination, hunger and violence — remains elusive.

In Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu talked about a fight for the truth in an era of hyper-partisanship and misinformation.

"We're battling not just two sides or left or right and a gradient in between that have to somehow come to compromise, but a growing movement of hate, abuse, extremism and white supremacy fueled by misinformation, fueled by conspiracy theories that are taking root at every level," she said.

Wu, the first woman and person of color elected

mayor of Boston, said education restores trust. Quoting King, she called for overcoming the "fatigue of despair" to enact change. "It is sometimes in those moments when we feel most tired, most despairing, that we are just about to break through," Wu told attendees at a memorial breakfast.

Volunteers in Philadelphia held a "day of service" focused on gun violence prevention. The city has seen a surge in homicides that saw 516 people killed last year and 562 the year before, the highest total in at least six decades.

Some participants in the effort's signature project, led by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, worked to assemble gun safety kits for public distribution. The kits include "gun cable locks and additional safety devices for childproofing," according to organizers. They also include information about firearm storage, health and social services information, and coping in the aftermath of gun violence.

Other kits being assembled

highlighted Temple University Hospital's "Fighting Chance" program and included materials to enable immediate response to victims at the scene of gunfire, organizers said. Recipients are to be trained in the use of the materials, which include tourniquets, gauze, chest seals and other items to treat critical wounds, they said.

In Selma, Alabama, a seminal site in the civil rights movement, residents were commemorating King as they recover from a deadly storm system that moved across the South last week. King was not present at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge for the initial march known as "Bloody Sunday," when Alabama state troopers attacked and beat marchers in March 1965. But he joined a subsequent procession that successfully crossed the bridge toward the Capitol in Montgomery, punctuating efforts that pushed Congress to pass and President Lyndon Johnson to sign the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Pettus Bridge was unscathed by Thursday's

storm. Maine's first Black House speaker urged residents Monday to honor King's memory by joining in acts of service.

"His unshakable faith, powerful nonviolent activism and his vision for peace and justice in our world altered the course of history," Rachel Talbot Ross said in a statement. Talbot Ross is also the daughter of Maine's first black lawmaker, and a former president of the Portland NAACP.

"We must follow his example of leading with light and love and recommit ourselves to building a more compassionate, just and equal community," she added.

At Ebenezer, Warnock, who has led the congregation for 17 years, hailed his predecessor's role in securing ballot access for Black Americans. But, like Bernice King, the senator warned against a reductive understanding of King.

"Don't just call him a civil rights leader. He was a faith leader," Warnock said. "Faith was the foundation upon which he did everything he did. You don't face down dogs and water hoses because you read Nietzsche or Niebuhr. You gotta tap into that thing, that God he said he met anew in Montgomery when someone threatened to bomb his house and kill his wife and his new child." King, Warnock said, "left the comfort of a filter that made the whole world his parish," turning faith into "the creative weapon of love and nonviolence."

While echoing Bernice King's call for bolder public policy, Warnock noted some progress in his lifetime. As he's done through two Senate campaigns, Warnock noted he was born a year after King's assassination, when both of Georgia senators were staunch segregationists, including one Warnock described as loving "the Negro" as long as he was "in his place at the back door."

But, Warnock said, "Because of what Dr. King and because of what you did ... I now sit in his seat."q

Jill Biden's skin cancer could fuel advocacy in cancer fight

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jill Biden's advocacy for curing cancer didn't start with her son's death in 2015 from brain cancer.

It began decades earlier, long before she came into the national spotlight, and could now be further energized by her own brush with a common form of skin cancer.

The first lady often says the worst three words anyone will ever hear are, "You have cancer." She heard a version of that phrase for herself this past week.

A lesion that doctors had found above her right eye during a routine screening late last year was removed on Wednesday and confirmed to be basal cell carcinoma — a highly treatable form of skin cancer. While Biden was being prepped to remove the lesion, doctors found and removed another one from the left side of her chest, also confirmed to be basal cell carcinoma. A third lesion from her left eyelid was being examined.

While it's too early to know when and how Biden might address her situation publicly, her experience could inject new purpose into what has become part of her life's work highlighting research into curing cancer and urging people to



First Lady Jill Biden hosts a conversation on women's empowerment at the residence of the US ambassador in Mexico City, on Jan. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

get regular screenings. Personal experiences can add potency to a public figure's advocacy.

"Nothing like 'I've been there, done that' and being personally involved," said Myra Gutin, a first lady scholar at Rider University. Biden's spokesperson, Vanessa Valdivia, said "the first lady's fight against cancer has always been personal. She knows that cancer touches us all."

Biden's advocacy dates to 1993, when four girlfriends were diagnosed with breast cancer, including her pal Winnie, who succumbed

to the disease. She said last year in a speech that "Winnie inspired me to take up the cause of prevention and education."

That experience led her to create the Biden Breast Health Initiative, one of the first breast health programs in the United States, to teach 16-to 18-year-old girls about caring for their breasts. Biden was among staffers who went into Delaware's high schools to conduct lectures and demonstrations.

Her mother, Bonny Jean Jacobs, and father, Donald Jacobs, died of cancer, in

2008 and 1999, respectively. A few years ago, one of her four sisters needed an auto-stem cell transplant to treat her cancer.

In May 2015, Beau Biden, President Joe Biden's son with his late first wife, died of a rare and aggressive brain cancer, leaving behind a wife and two young kids. Joe Biden was vice president at the time and the blow from Beau's loss led him to decide against running for president in 2016. Jill Biden, who had helped raise Beau from a young age after she married his dad, was convinced he

would survive the disease and later described feeling "blinded by the darkness" when he died.

After their son's death, the Bidens helped push for a national commitment to "end cancer as we know it." Then-President Barack Obama — Biden's boss — put the vice president in charge of what the White House named the Cancer Moonshot.

The Bidens resurrected the initiative after Joe Biden became president and added a new goal of cutting cancer death rates by at least 50% over the next 25 years, and improving the experience of living with and surviving cancer for patients and their families.

"We're ensuring that all of our government is ready to get to work," Jill Biden said at the relaunch announcement at the White House last February. "We're going to break down the walls that hold research back. We're going to bring the best of our nation together — patients, survivors, caregivers, researchers, doctors, and advocates — all of you — so that we can get this done."

In the years between Biden serving as vice president and running for president, the Bidens headed up the Biden Cancer Initiative, a charity. □

Baby, teen mom among 6 killed in shooting at California home

VISALIA, Calif. (AP) — Six people — including a 17-year-old mother and her 6-month-old baby — were killed in a shooting early Monday at a home in central California, and authorities are searching for at least two suspects, sheriff's officials said.

Deputies responded around 3:30 a.m. to reports of multiple shots fired at the residence in unincorporated Goshen, just east of Visalia, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office said.

"Actually the report was that an active shooter was

in the area because of the number of shots that were being fired," Sheriff Mike Boudreaux told reporters. Deputies found two victims dead in the street and a third person fatally shot in the doorway of the residence, Boudreaux said.

Three more victims were found inside the home, including a man who was still alive but later died at a hospital, he said.

The sheriff said investigators are searching for at least two suspects.

They believe there is a gang connection to the

killings. The sheriff's office conducted a narcotics-related search warrant at the residence last week, Boudreaux said.

"We also believe this was not a random act of violence. We believe this was a targeted family," he said. Two of the victims, the teen mother and her young child, were shot in the head, the sheriff said.

Goshen is a semi-rural community of about 3,000 residents 35 miles (56 kilometers) southeast of Fresno in the agricultural San Joaquin Valley. □



In this image released by Tulare County Sheriff's Office, detectives investigate a shooting in Goshen near Visalia, Calif., early morning Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

DHS policy protects migrant workers in labor investigations

By **REBECCA SANTANA**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security on Friday announced a process by which migrant workers who witness or are victims of workplace labor violations can apply for protection from deportation, in a development applauded by labor and rights advocates who say it will protect migrant workers who expose abusive working conditions. Friday's announcement sets up guidelines on the agency's website so applicants know what documentation they need to apply and how to go about it. "Workers are often afraid to report violations of law by exploitative employers or to cooperate in employment and labor standards investigations because they fear removal or other immigration-related retaliation by an abusive employer," the agency said in a news release. "Agencies tasked with enforcing labor and employment laws depend on the cooperation of these workers in their investigations." The agency said that in the



Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas speaks during a news conference in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, on new border enforcement measures to limit unlawful migration, expand pathways for legal immigration, and increase border security.

past it has been able to use "discretionary authority" to consider requests to protect workers from deportation who are assisting in labor investigations on a case-by-case basis. But the new guidelines create a "streamlined and expedited" process and a centralized location where requests can be submitted. The new process allows migrant workers to apply for "deferred action," mean-

ing protection from deportation if they're taking part in an investigation of workplace labor violations. As part of the application they'd have to show proof from a labor or employment agency describing the investigation and why they need DHS support. They'd also have to show proof they were working at the company as well as documents like proof of identity. The applications would be

reviewed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, an arm of Homeland Security that handles immigration and citizenship-related requests.

If approved, migrant workers cooperating with a labor investigation can stay in the country for two years. They can also apply for authorization to work legally in the country during that time. Labor and immigration groups applauded the

news as a way to protect migrant workers from employers who might use their immigration status as a way to retaliate against them for coming forward about things like wage or workplace violations.

"As immigration lawyers, we have seen too many of our clients suffer workplace abuses they were too afraid to report for fear of retribution by unscrupulous employers," said Ann Garcia, staff attorney at the National Immigration Project.

In an October 2021 memo, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the agency would consider requests for deferred action protection for migrants helping in labor investigations but didn't set out a detailed policy for how it would be done. Since then, Garcia said, some lawyers have applied on behalf of their clients but it was case by case. "It was a process of guesswork," she said. Garcia, who trains other lawyers in aspects of immigration law, said now the formal process will allow her to more easily help other lawyers navigate for their clients. □

Associated Press

Ninth in series of California storms dumps more rain, snow

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The ninth atmospheric river in a three-week series of major winter storms was churning through California on Monday, leaving mountain driving dangerous and flooding risk high near swollen rivers even as the sun came out in some areas. Heavy snow fell across the Sierra Nevada and the National Weather Service discouraged travel. Interstate 80, a key highway from the San Francisco Bay Area to Lake Tahoe ski resorts, reopened with chain requirements after periodic weekend closures because of whiteout conditions. "If you must travel, be prepared for dangerous travel conditions, significant travel delays and road clo-

sures," the weather service office in Sacramento said on Twitter.

The University of California Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab tweeted Monday morning that it had recorded 49.6 inches (126

cm) of new snow since Friday.

A backcountry avalanche warning was issued for the central Sierra, including the greater Tahoe area.

A barrage of atmospheric river storms has dumped



Ryan Orosco, of Brentwood, carries his wife Amanda Orosco, from their flooded home on Bixler Road in Brentwood, Calif., on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

rain and snow on California since late December, cutting power to thousands, swamping roads, toppling trees, unleashing debris flows and triggering landslides. Monday's system was relatively weak compared with earlier storms, but flooding and mudslide risks remained because the state was so saturated, forecasters said.

The sun came out in San Francisco, where 20.3 inches (51.5 cm) of rain has fallen at the city's airport since Oct. 1, when California typically begins recording rainfall for the year. The yearly average for the "water year" is 19.6 inches (49.8 cm), "so we've surpassed the yearly total with 8 more months to go," the San Francisco weather service office tweeted.

Up to 2 more inches (5 cm) of rain fell Sunday in the soaked Sacramento Valley, where residents of Wilton and surrounding communities were warned to prepare to leave if the Cosumnes River rose further.

The swollen Salinas River swamped farmland in Monterey County. To the east, flood warnings were still in effect for Merced County in the agricultural Central Valley, where Gov. Gavin Newsom visited Saturday. Newsom on Monday signed an executive order to further bolster the state's emergency storm response and help communities that suffered damage. President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in the state and ordered federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts. □

Dutch, German ministers condemn child abductions in Ukraine

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) —

The German and Dutch foreign ministers on Monday condemned the deportation by Russians of thousands of Ukrainian children, calling it a deliberate policy of cruel and inhumane abductions that is tearing families apart.

Since Moscow launched its war in Ukraine nearly a year ago, Russians have been accused of deporting Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-held territories to raise them as their own. At least 1,000 children were seized from schools and orphanages in the Kherson region during Russia's eight-month occupation of the area, local authorities say. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

Russia claims that these children don't have parents or guardians to look after them, or that they can't be reached. But the AP found that officials have deported Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-held territories without consent, lied to them that they weren't wanted by their



German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, right, and Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra pose for the media prior to a meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

parents, used them for propaganda, and given them Russian families and citizenship.

"Russia must account for the whereabouts of these children," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said at a joint press conference with her Dutch colleague Wopke Hoekstra

in The Hague.

"Their parents, families, caregivers must no longer be in uncertainty and fear. These children have their homes with their families in Ukraine.

These children did not leave their homes voluntarily. These children have been abducted."

Baerbock said German and Dutch ministers will work together with organizations including the United Nations and International Criminal Court on the issue. "This deliberate Russian policy is tearing families apart and traumatizing children," Hoekstra said. "It is cruel and it is inhumane. And let

me be clear that children abducted by Russia must be returned to their own country as soon as possible."

While in The Hague, Baerbock visited the ICC and spoke to its chief prosecutor Karim Khan, who launched an investigation in Ukraine last year soon Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion. He has visited Ukraine and sent teams of investigators to the scenes of alleged crimes but has yet to announce any cases arising from his probe.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is widely regarded as an act of aggression that would fall within the ICC definition of the crime, but because neither Russia nor Ukraine is a member of the court Khan does not have jurisdiction.

That has led to calls for an international tribunal for the crime of aggression in Ukraine. Hoekstra said late last year that the Netherlands already home to the ICC, the International Court of Justice and other international courts would be prepared to host such a tribunal. □

UK govt may veto Scotland's gender self-recognition law

By **JILL LAWLESS**

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government is considering blocking a new law that makes it easier for people in Scotland to legally change their gender a move that would spark conflict with transgender rights advo-

cates and the nationalist Scottish administration in Edinburgh.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said Monday that it would be an "outrage" if Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative government vetoed the legislation, which was approved by

the Scottish parliament last month. She said such a decision "will be using trans people already one of the most vulnerable, stigmatized groups in our society as a political weapon."

Sunak's office said no decision has been made but that it had concerns about the law, "particularly around safety issues for women and children."

The law allows people age 16 or older in Scotland to change the gender designation on their identity documents by self-declaration, removing the need for a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria.

It also cuts the time trans people must live in a different expressed gender before the change is legally recognized, from two years to three months for adults and to six months for peo-

ple ages 16 and 17.

The law sets Scotland apart from the rest of the United Kingdom, where a medical diagnosis is needed before individuals can transition for legal purposes.

Several countries around the world have legalized gender self-recognition, including Argentina, Canada, New Zealand, Denmark and Iceland. Last month Spain's parliament approved a bill similar to Scotland's.

The Scottish National Party-led government in Edinburgh says the new law will improve the lives of transgender people by allowing them to get official documents that correspond with their gender identities.

Opponents claim it risks allowing predatory men to gain access to spaces intended for women, such as

shelters for domestic abuse survivors.

Others argue that the minimum age for transitioning should remain at 18.

Scotland is part of the United Kingdom but, like Wales and Northern Ireland, has its own semi-autonomous government with broad powers over areas including health care.

The U.K. government in London has the final say in some other fields, and is taking legal advice on whether the Scottish law conflicts with U.K.-wide equalities legislation, which guarantees women and girls access to single-sex spaces such as changing rooms and shelters.

Sunak's government has until Wednesday, four weeks after the bill was passed, to decide whether it will veto the law. □



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak leaves after his visit to Port of Cromarty Firth at Invergordon, Scotland, Friday Jan. 13, 2023.

Associated Press

Report: Myanmar arms industry growing after army takeover

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Companies from at least 13 countries have helped Myanmar build up its capacity to produce weapons that are being used to commit atrocities following a 2021 military takeover, independent international experts have found.

The report released Monday by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar details how the country has stepped up arms production since the army seized power on Feb. 1, 2021, igniting a mass public opposition movement.

The army's takeover from elected civilian leaders reversed nearly a decade of progress toward democracy after 50 years of military rule. After security forces used lethal force against peaceful demonstrators, opponents of military rule took up arms. Some U.N. experts have characterized the situation as a civil war.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners has documented more than 2,700 civilian deaths in the violence, including 277 children, while more than 13,000 people have been detained. The true number is believed to be much



In this photo provided by the Free Burma Rangers, a wounded woman rests in Lay Wah, one of the villages in Karen state's Mutraw district, Myanmar, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

higher.

Companies in the U.S., Europe, Asia and the Middle East are supporting the military supply chain, the report says, urging those businesses to ensure they are not facilitating human rights abuses.

The growth of the home-grown arms industry comes as some countries have enforced arms embargoes or sanctions against individuals and companies involved in trading or manufacturing arms.

In October, the U.S. Treas-

ury imposed sanctions against Aung Moe Myint, a businessman close to the army who it said facilitates arms deals on its behalf. His brother, Hlaing Moe Myint, and the trading company they founded, Dynasty International Company Ltd., were also targeted. One of its directors, Myo Thitsar, also was designated for sanctions.

In November, the U.S. imposed sanctions on aircraft suppliers to the military, citing deadly air strikes on civilians.

Myanmar has no private arms makers, so any such companies are run by the Ministry of Defense and Directorate of Defense Industries, the report said.

Local factories still can draw upon licensed technology and overseas supply chains, technical support and other backing, sometimes by sending equipment to Singapore and Taiwan for upgrading and maintenance, it said.

In a statement, council expert Chris Sidoti urged that governments investigate

and when justified initiate action against companies that enable Myanmar's military to make weapons used in "indiscriminate attacks on civilians."

"Foreign companies that profit from the suffering of the Myanmar people must be held accountable," said Sidoti, a human rights lawyer and a member of the U.N. Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar from 2017 to 2019.

A report last year by the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights outlined some of those links, naming companies in Russia, China, Ukraine, Israel, Singapore and the Philippines. A major factor driving the buildup in the domestic arms making industry is the risk that imports of arms, military aircraft and other weaponry will be cut off by embargoes or sanctions. The army is now self-reliant in making small arms and light weapons, the report says.

Myanmar's arms-making capacity includes a wide variety of items from assault rifles and machine guns to mortars, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, missiles and missile launchers and artillery and air defense systems, it said. □

Nigeria presidential hopeful Obi pledges to fight corruption

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigerian leading presidential candidate Peter Obi pledged Monday to rid Africa's most populous nation

of endemic corruption and widespread insecurity if he wins next month's election. Obi, who is one of 18 seeking Nigeria's highest office,



Nigeria's Labour Party's Presidential Candidate Peter Obi speaks during a forum "Nigeria's 2023 election: A vision for policy change and institutional reforms" at Chatham House in London, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

described his country as "a failing state" in need of new political leadership during his speech at the Chatham House international affairs think tank in London.

"Unless we change the politics by changing the political leadership, we are stuck in this terrible state of underdevelopment and misery," said Obi, a former governor of southeastern Anambra state who is the candidate of Nigeria's Labour Party.

Recent polls have shown Obi leading the crowded field, ahead of the ruling party's candidate Bola Tinubu and the main opposition candidate Atiku Abubakar. That's despite those

opponents having high name recognition: Tinubu is a former governor of Lagos state and Abubakar is a former vice president.

Political analysts have described the Feb. 25 vote to replace incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari after eight years in power as a make-or-mar exercise. Since campaigning began late last year, other top contenders have made pledges similar to Obi's: Tinubu has said he is seeking to "renew hope" while Atiku has said he will "rescue Nigeria."

But observers warn that the exercise is threatened by the security challenges Nigeria is battling, including

an Islamic extremist insurgency linked to the Islamic State group in the north-east, rebels in the north-west, and secessionists in the southeast.

On Monday, Obi said he would conduct a dialogue with secessionists in Nigeria's southeast. And he promised to introduce a range of security reforms, especially in the troubled northern region where thousands have been killed by armed gangs in the last year. Those changes could encourage members of Nigeria's large diaspora communities abroad to consider returning home and aiding development, he added. □

Program for royal visit to Aruba focused on culture and unique experience

ORANJESTAD – As was previously announced, Aruba is preparing to receive a royal visit on the 30th and 31st of January. King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima and crown Princess Amalia will be visiting the six islands of the kingdom of the Netherlands at the end of the month. The president of the commission in charge of the royal visit in Aruba elaborated during a press conference on the program of activities for the royal family's visit.

The president of the commission explained that the entire program is open so that the public can come close, stand on the sidewalk and greet the royal family. However there are three moments in the program that create an opportunity for the people to come in great numbers to greet our king, queen and heir apparent.

These moments are in front of the Parliament of Aruba, in San Nicolas and during the Bon Bini Festival.

The official program will begin on the 30th of January. At 10:30am the royal family will land in Aruba, and they will not be coming directly from the Netherlands but from Bonaire, where the royal visit is officially starting.

They will be welcomed at the airport with all protocols and formality by His Excellency Governor of Aruba, Mr. Alfonso Boekhoudt and Prime Minister Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes. After greeting His Excellency the Governor and the Prime

Minister, they will depart the airport and head to the Wilhelmina Park.

"We thought that it would be nice to visit the Wilhelmina Park because princess Wilhelmina is great-grandmother of princess Amalia. At the Wilhelmina Park there will be the official visit with all corresponding protocol acts," he indicated.

After Wilhelmina Park the delegation will walk to the Ceremonial House of the Governor for a meeting with the Governor of Aruba. After this they will be walking on the main road towards the Parliament of Aruba. On the right hand there will be a presentation by a youth choir, dance group Pierewietje that will delight the guests with some beautiful songs and then they will meet Leerorkest – the student orchestra of Aruba.

At the Parliament the royal family will be welcomed by the president of Parliament, who will accompany the royal delegation and introduce the leaders of the different political parties.

Following this visit the royal delegation will walk towards the main center of the government, Cocolishi, where the secretary of the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister will welcome and accompany them to the Council of Ministers quarters on the third floor. Here they will meet with the Council of Ministers and receive information regarding developments, activities and certain points that the Council considers im-

portant to inform the royal delegation.

Afterwards the delegation will depart for the hotel for a short break.

Following the break, the entire delegation will go to San Nicolas. The first visit will be at Filomena College for a presentation of a mural honoring our World War II hero, Boy Ecury. There will be a theatre play presentation by the school's children as well as a presentation regarding Boy Ecury and what he means for Aruba.

Afterwards they will visit the Industrial Museum of Aruba. "The Industrial Museum is important for us to emphasize the economic development that our country has seen since the 1800s. For us it is important that Aruba has always gone through hardship, economic hardship, but the people of Aruba are always known for our resilience and determination, and this is also being shown by the people of Aruba today. This is something we want to share with the royal visitors," the president of the commission explained.

Following this visit, the delegation will get to see the murals and art in San Nicolas. Three artworks were selected and will be explained and presented. The royal delegation will also receive information about the art project in San Nicolas and its importance for tourism development.

This visit will conclude in San Nicolaas Store, where the royal guests will be delighted with a cultural demonstration. In this case attention was given to the fact that the princess is a young 18-year-old and they want to share some youth culture with her.

The presentation includes street dance, spoken word and will be concluded with a carnival show by children.

After leaving San Nicolaas



Store, the delegation will arrive at the Marinierskazerne – the marine barracks – where they will board a Coast Guard boat and navigate to the hotel area, while admiring beautiful sceneries of Aruba, concluding the first day of the royal visit.

The second day on Tuesday will begin early morning with a hike in Aruba's nature, starting at the Franse Pas, the gold mine ruins. Here the royal delegation will receive a tour and information and they will see a Shoco nest – Aruba's endemic burrowing owl.

Afterwards they will go to the skirts of the Jamanota hill, which they will climb to enjoy Aruba's nature. Here the royal delegation is guests of the Arikok National Park which will provide guidance and information. Following the walk the delegation will visit the Visitors' Center of the park and see the center of farming where certain special plants are being grown and will be introduced to the project.

At the Hofi Shoco they will meet the junior rangers and the board of the Arikok National Park who will inform them of ongoing projects regarding nature conservation.

Following the park, the royal delegation will visit Aruba Aloe, which recently received the title "royal". This makes it the first company outside of the Netherlands to receive permission to use this title. "Because they complied with all requisites, which is not easy, to receive this seal – the crown above their logo. Naturally this enhances the Aruba Aloe brand but also the country of Aruba."

Here the delegation will ex-

perience the production in practice, they will receive information particularly from young people working at the plant and they will walk on the aloe plantation. Princess Amalia will cut some aloe and they will sit down and make some aloe products.

Afterwards they will enjoy a lunch at the Wilhelmina Restaurant, and continue on to the University of Aruba, where they will meet with lecturers and students.

Following this visit the King and princess will depart for the Frans Figaroa Sports Center where they will have a meeting with male and female soccer academies. The Queen will visit Qredits Aruba, a project of small credits, which is a subject close to the Queen, and she will receive information regarding a project focused on agriculture.

The program for the royal visit will end with a visit to Fort Zoutman, which will begin on Plaza Padu. They will walk on the entire plaza and meet with artists and artisans and receive various presentations, dance shows and there will also be video mapping projection on the Parliament building.

Afterwards they will enter Fort Zoutman where they will experience a portion of Bon Bini Festival. "We believe that this is something that will give them a good insight of the culture, music and dance of our country." The night will end with a Carnival show accompanied by a brass band that will invite them to walk slowly on the road in front of the Cabinet of the Governor after saying goodbye to the people of Aruba, finalizing their visit. □



Bowls Noodle Bar invites you to a Happy Hour with a unique flavor



Before the pandemic, Bowls Noodle Bar opened at the Hyatt by the airport, and was in the process of opening a second location at The Village when the pandemic hit. Due to the consequences of the pandemic, they decided to close the restaurant by the airport and open their new location at The Village. Their new location has been open to great results.

At The Village, night time is the best time. This is why they are offering a daily Happy Hour, from 9pm to 11pm. It includes \$3 beer and \$5 cocktails.

Their cocktails are made in-house with a delectable fusion of Asian flavors, for example, the popular purple Ube Mojito, with the flavor of traditional Ube, a Japanese dessert; the Blue Samurai with ginger flavor; and the refreshing Fruity Blossoms, with a flavor encompassing the Sakura, the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms. You can try all these for only \$5 each during Happy Hour.

Fusion is at the core of the surprising flavors of Bowls Noodle Bar, and this is expressed beautifully in their traditional Japanese soups. They are the only restaurant in Aruba that has most of the noodles traditionally used, Udon, Ramen, and Rice noodles. Ramen noodles, served fresh, are a surprising flavor for those who are used to dried ramen noodles. They also have Jasmine rice for the rice bowls.

Their authentic soups are the highlight and star. Chef Warren explains that there are four main components to the soup: the broth, the noodles, tare, and the oil, and these are very important for the traditional Japanese soups. At Bowls Noodle Bar, they have a wide variety of flavors to cater to every taste, like the famous Pork Chashu. It comes with

fresh ramen noodles, and it's the pride of Bowls Noodle Bar. Chef Warren says that the broth for this soup takes two to three days to make, and is made in-house, with fresh and delicious ingredients. They also cater to vegetarians and vegans, with various options on the menu like tofu mushroom soup, vegetable gyoza, wonton, and fresh kimchi fermented at the restaurant.

The wok concept also allows you to create your own unique dish, choosing your base, protein, vegetables and sauce.



Origin

The founders of Bowls Noodle Bar, Dexter Moreno and his partner Lai, opened their first location on Curaçao. They traveled to Japan to study Japanese Cuisine, and they fell in love with Japanese soup. Lai's parents are Chinese, and this is the start of the Asian-fusion flavors that are both surprising and delectable, combining Japanese, Chinese and even some Korean cuisine. Chef Warren was trained in these traditional flavors by the founders themselves.

They came to Aruba where Dexter approached some ex-colleagues in the industry to open a location on the island, and with a local team, opened Bowls Noodle Bar Aruba with a more extensive menu.

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 5pm – 11:30pm; Friday and Saturday 5pm – 12pm; and Sunday 5pm – 11:30pm. Come visit for great atmosphere, delicious flavors, and a Happy Hour to remember! ☐



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort Aruba

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize the Distinguished Ambassadors & Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba with certificates. The honorees were presented with the Ambassadors Certification as a token of appreciation for visiting the island for 10, and 20 years consecutively.

Honorees was:

Distinguished Ambassador (10+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Isla Ruby Willmann residents of Wisconsin, United States

Goodwill Ambassador (20+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Steven & Sarabeth Lemoine resident of Wisconsin, United States

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of La Cabana Beach Resort Aruba bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors and presented the Ambassadors with gifts, and thanked the honorees on behalf of the Government of Aruba for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination for so many years. The Honorees can now call Aruba their home away from home.


Top reason for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

Ms. Willmann
Beach and ocean
Sun
Friends and family
Sunsets


I am named after Aruba (Isla/ Island) of Ruby/ Aruba)
Mr. & Mrs. Lemoine
The people
The restaurants – a large variety of 5 star establishments
The weather is always comfortable year around
The landscape is gorgeous
The ease to get around (transportation w/ different types: Scooters, ATV's, Taxis, buses




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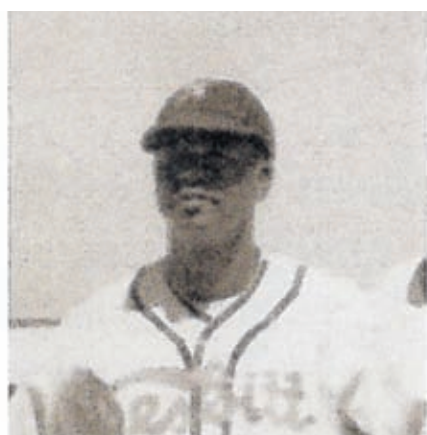
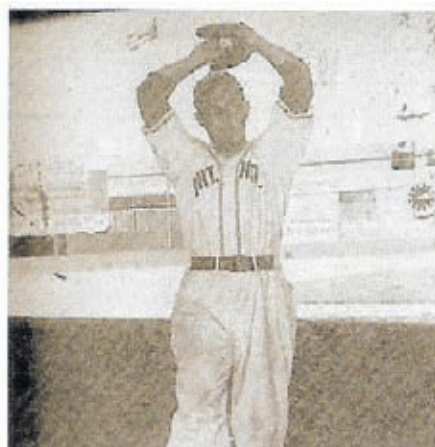
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Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba



by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guer-

rero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was

formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Jennely Winklaar and Geraldine Albertsz crowned Carnival queens for school EPI

ORANJESTAD – Last weekend, at the Entertainment Center took place the Queen election for EPI school, which was organized by the Bo-Groep Economy Unit, consisting of eight students.

The preparation for the event started a few months ago. It is a task for the subject of Movement Education (BO), which has as a goal to enhance organization and leadership. In the end, the students raised funds for a study trip next month.

The event was a success. The Entertainment Center saw a great audience, and there were five candidates in two categories: student and teacher. Aside from the show and speech from the candidates, there was also a live presentation by Easy B, Daddy Bass, Ty and Casper. Present for the occasion were outgoing queens, candidates who will be participating in the main queen election from SMAC (organization in charge of organizing Carnival) next week, the president of SMAC, the director of EPI, and a representative from the Department of Public Schools (DPS).

Bo-Groep thanks everyone who supported this election and helped them achieve their goal, which includes a grade as well. What stood out during the event were the prizes. There were a lot of prizes that were shared among the participants, among which, the winners received more than six prizes, including plane tickets, weekend stay, dinner for two and much more. Both winners confirmed that they will be participating in the main queen election organized by SMAC next week on Plaza Betico Croes.

The election results were as follow:

Student category:

2nd runner up: Ariadna Harewood;

1st runner up: Judienne Celaire;

Winner: Jennely Winklaar;

Social Media Queen: Jennely Winklaar;

Popular Queen: Jennely Winklaar;

Best show: Jennely Winklaar;

Best speech: Jennely Winklaar;

Best costume: Judienne Celaire;

Miss Congeniality: Judienne Celaire.

Teacher category:

1st runner up: Rosmery Rondon;

Winner: Geraldine Albertsz;

Best show: Geraldine Albertsz;

Best speech: Geraldine Albertsz;

Best costume: Rosmery Rondon;

Popular: Geraldine Albertsz;

Social media: Geraldine Albertsz.

Congratulations to all participants for a great show! □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Syrup source
- 6 Warms up
- 11 Starry hunter
- 12 Houston player
- 13 Heading to sea
- 15 Utter
- 16 Bit of humor
- 17 Buck's mate
- 18 Plentiful
- 20 Spanish resort isle
- 23 Superfluous
- 27 Blowgun ammo
- 28 Lowly worker
- 29 Start
- 31 Female donkey
- 32 Polite
- 34 TV spots
- 37 Quarterback Marino
- 38 Sack
- 41 Job for a judge
- 44 Deeply impressed
- 45 Singer Ronstadt
- 46 Famed fur tycoon
- 47 Finished

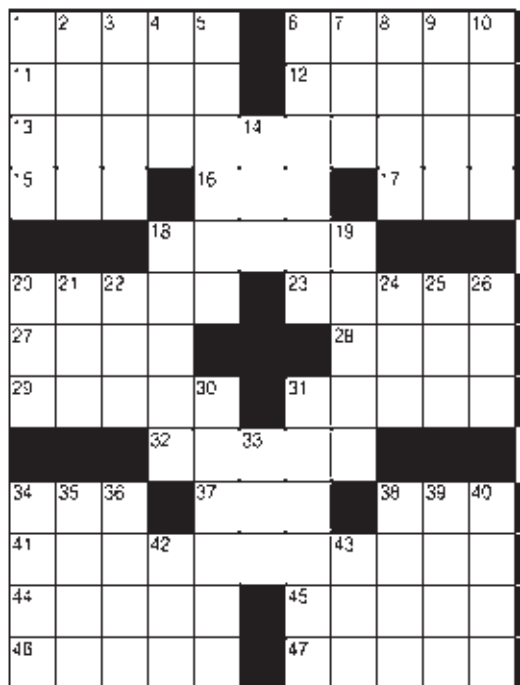
DOWN

- 1 Forest growth
- 2 Region
- 3 Feel sorry for
- 4 Auction buy
- 5 Puzzle
- 6 Negotiate a price
- 7 Snaky shape
- 8 Slightly
- 9 Half a sextet
- 10 Foot part
- 14 Afternoon break
- 18 Early Mexican
- 19 Kick out
- 20 Wedding words
- 21 Prohibit



Yesterday's answer

- 22 Form 1040 org.
- 24 Toe count
- 25 Director Howard
- 26 One or more
- 30 More neat
- 31 Commercial song
- 33 Mover's truck
- 34 China setting
- 35 Bears' lairs
- 36 Sports figure
- 38 Rock group
- 39 Staff member
- 40 Delighted
- 42 Binary base
- 43 Storage site



1-17

AXYDLBAAXR
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

CTM PO KSYT RPV XPMPVT

GRI SGZ CTM PO KSYT RPV

ZVTSKO MRKRVRI'O VTSCHMA.

— KSCSCS ARPOSXJSH

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE SHALL OVERCOME BECAUSE THE ARC OF THE MORAL UNIVERSE IS LONG, BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE. — MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Kimberly Palmer: How to tackle holiday debt in January



The likeness of Benjamin Franklin is seen on U.S. \$100 bills, Thursday, July 14, 2022, in Marple Township, Pa.

Associated Press

By **KIMBERLY PALMER** of **NerdWallet**

After years of being in debt, Rachel Kramer Bussel came to a realization: "If I don't become proactive about it, I will be in debt for the rest of my life." For Bussel, a freelance writer near Atlantic City, New Jersey, that meant scaling back spending and putting any available money toward the debt principal.

"Starting to see it go in the right direction helped me amp it up," she says. "I felt like, maybe there is light at the end of the tunnel." Bussel, whose debt came from credit cards, student loans and back taxes, finally paid off all of her debt, which at one point exceeded \$100,000, in 2020.

Paying off debt is a common goal as the new year kicks off. Bills for holiday shopping and other end-of-year spending often come due in January, and this year, rising interest rates make debt increasingly expensive. According to the Federal Reserve, revolving debt, which includes credit card balances, continued to rise throughout 2022, increasing at an annual rate of 10.4% as of October, the most recent numbers available. To attack your debt this month, try these strategies:

LOOK BACK, THEN FORWARD

Elaine Grogan Luttrull, a

financial educator and counselor in Dublin, Ohio, says that before making a plan to pay off the debt, it helps to reflect on how it came to be in the first place. "Was it pressure? Excitement? Habits? Explore what triggers led to this debt, and sit with the emotion for a moment," she says. "Let's not berate ourselves but be solution-focused," she adds. Skipping that introspective step can make it hard to start taking action, she says, because it's easy to dwell on just feeling bad about previous choices.

GET ORGANIZED

Listing all of your debt with the accompanying interest rates helps you get organized and decide what to pay off first, Luttrull says. She suggests starting with the debt that carries the highest interest rate, also known as the debt avalanche method, but other people prefer to use the debt snowball method, where you start with the smallest debts first. □

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216163

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Glossy 'House Party' remake falls short on the fun

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

It's never a good idea to promise too much, either in an invitation to a house party held in a stranger's mansion, or in a reboot of a three-decade old hit. But the new "House Party" does just that, starting out with a romantic voiceover about Los Angeles, where we're told "a party can change your life" as we're shown a loving montage of storefronts and people in South LA. Fair enough, but then they take it to another level with the pitch that, "Some crazy, beautiful, weird ass (expletive) is about to go down." If only. This version is especially convoluted, trying to get two broke best friends, struggling single dad Kevin (Jacob Latimore) and aspiring promoter Damon (Tosin Cole), in a position where they might be able to throw a big party at LeBron James' house. It's not as hard as you might think, it turns out. These guys work for a fancy cleaning company and one day end up on assignment in a very big, very nice house. It's only when Damon stumbles into a trophy room that they realize whose grounds



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows D.C. Young Fly in a scene from "House Party." Associated Press

they're standing on: The GOAT, as we're reminded over and over again. The logic puzzle continues as they scheme to plan a party, which they hope will solve Kevin's financial woes, pay for his daughter Destiny's education through college and put Damon's party promoting skills on the map. This master plan includes posing as James' assistants, hacking into and inviting his famous friends and teammates and charging big entry fees to the normals. The figure

will cover security, cleaning fees and all of their hopes and dreams. A desk calendar with the words MEDITATION RETREAT scrawled over two weeks leaves them breathing easy that James will not be returning home anytime soon. "House Party," written by Stephen Glover and Jamal Olori and directed by Calmatic, a Grammy winning music video director, takes quite a bit of time (around an hour) to get to the actual party. In the build up, they try to get us

to care about Kevin and Damon's stakes and indulge in some wealth voyeurism as the two bask in the little conveniences of the uber rich, including self-fluffing couches, a bed that conforms to the body, a bidet and popcorn that drops out of the ceiling into a popcorn bowl on voice command in a plush screening room. The only really fun part of this extended cribs riff is the LeBron hologram they find in his closet that gives compliments. "You handled the

decision to go to Miami perfectly." "Your hairline is perfect." "You were great in 'Trainwreck,' ... The New Yorker said you were the funniest part of the movie." It should be noted that Kevin and Damon know they're getting fired already by the time they decide to throw the party. The cleaning company execs saw them goofing around on surveillance footage but staffing shortages mean they're still needed to finish the job and Damon knows how to turn off the cameras for a few days. Again, logic. These characters aren't dumb teenagers and they also don't seem that desperate for fast money. "House Party" is supposed to be a good time for someone, right? There are quite a few big-name cameos playing themselves, but the only one who really gets to have fun with it is Scott Mescudi, or Kid Cudi, playing it straight as an anti-social lurker who doesn't like parties ("too much laughing") and only wanted to go to give his pal LeBron a poem. He and the LeBron hologram are the big highlights of the film. □

Lizzo, Ed Sheeran among acts set for 2023 Jazz Fest

By **CHEVEL JOHNSON**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Lizzo and Ed Sheeran are among the headliners at this year's New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, which takes

place over two weekends beginning April 28. The lineup released Friday also includes Dead & Company, Mumford & Sons, The Lumineers, Santana, Jon Batiste, Jill Scott, Robert

Plant & Alison Krauss, Kane Brown, H.E.R., the Steve Miller Band and Ludacris. Quint Davis, the festival's producer, said he's really excited about this year's event.

"This one is special," Davis told The Associated Press by phone. "We've got something for everybody. Don't just read through the first few names on the list. Read down through it. There's some great stuff all over it. If there's someone scheduled that you haven't heard of, go to YouTube or Google them. There's buried treasure in this festival." Batiste, a New Orleans-area native and former band leader for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," is one of many performers

with Louisiana roots who will perform. Other New Orleans-anchored acts include Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and the Radiators. The festival, which features hundreds of acts and draws tens of thousands of visitors daily, unfolds on more than a dozen music stages on the infield and surrounding structures of the historic Fair Grounds horse track. It also features scores of food booths that offer delicacies from Louisiana and beyond, plus numerous art and craft exhibitions. "We're appealing to all ages, tastes and communities with this one," Davis said. "What festival has Ludacris and Tom Jones on the bill, I

ask you? None." Festival organizers said this year's event also will include a celebration of Puerto Rico, with artist demonstrations, live music and dance showcases, parades, cultural displays, photo exhibits and authentic cuisine. Asked why the festival attracts such eclectic talent, Davis said its reputation has a lot to do with it. "These acts hear about us through conversations with other groups who tell them how it was handled, how the audiences are, how their energy feeds into theirs. The managers tell us their artists had the best show ever and the audiences responded. That makes it great for all who go," he said. □



British singer Ed Sheeran performs during the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, in London on June 5, 2022.

Associated Press

4-time WNBA champion Maya Moore officially retires at 33

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

Maya Moore knew it was time to officially end her basketball career — four years after stepping away. The Minnesota Lynx star left the WNBA in 2019 to help her now-husband Jonathan Irons win his release from prison by getting his 50-year sentence overturned in 2020. Irons married Moore soon after his release and the couple had their first child, Jonathan Jr., in July.

She announced her decision to retire on ABC's "Good Morning America." Before Monday, Moore had been noncommittal about playing basketball again.

"Well, I think it's time to put a close to the pro basketball life," Moore said. "I walked away four seasons ago but wanted to officially retire. This is such a sweet time for us and our family. The work we've done, I want to continue that in our next chapter. Be home for my community and family."

In a video call with reporters after the show, Moore said she missed her teammates but was too focused over the last four years on her off-the-court priorities that transitioning back to basketball was not on her mind.

"Just trying to learn a new rhythm outside of playing I didn't really wrestle with



Minnesota Lynx's Maya Moore in action against the Seattle Storm in the first half of a WNBA basketball game, Sept. 10, 2013, in Seattle.

a desire to want to switch that pace up," she said, later adding: "I wasn't just sitting around wishing I was playing again. I just felt such a sense of purpose."

The 33-year-old Moore won four WNBA championships with the Minnesota Lynx, two Olympic gold medals with USA Basketball and two NCAA titles with UConn.

"On behalf of the Minnesota Lynx organization, I want to congratulate Maya on an incredible basketball career," Lynx coach and President of Basketball Operations Cheryl Reeve said. "We will always cherish her time in a Lynx uniform and we wish her the best as she continues to pursue this next chapter of her life."

Moore will be eligible for the Naismith Hall of Fame next year since she stopped playing four years ago, one of the rare athletes to leave their sport in the prime of their career.

She was drafted No. 1 by the Lynx in 2011, winning the Rookie of the Year award and going on to average 18.4 points, 5.9 rebounds and 1.7 steals over eight seasons for Minnesota. She was the league's MVP in 2014 and the only player in WNBA history with four 40-plus point games.

"Her four WNBA championships, six All-Star selections, an MVP award and a Finals MVP trophy are indicative of the type of rare, generational talent Maya brought to this league, but perhaps

her greatest legacy will be what she accomplished beyond the game," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said.

When Moore stepped away from basketball, she started a social action campaign "Win With Justice." Moore and her husband also have a book coming out this week titled "Love & Justice."

During her career, she was at the forefront of the Lynx becoming one of the first pro sports teams to fully embrace social activism, starting before a game on July 9, 2016, when players wore black T-shirts that read, "Change Starts With Us." Their message was prompted by fatal police shootings earlier that week

of Philando Castile in Minnesota and Alton Sterling in Louisiana.

"I hope people saw me as someone who gave all she had," Moore said Monday, "but also somebody who looked beyond the craft that I pursued."

The Lynx went 200-71 in the regular season and 40-16 in the playoffs during Moore's career as the star among stars in a core that featured Seimone Augustus, Lindsay Whalen, Rebekkah Brunson and eventually Sylvia Fowles. She finished her career as the Lynx franchise leader in scoring average, 3-point field goals made (530) and steals (449) and finished second in total points scored (4,984), field goals made (1,782), assists (896) and blocks (176).

"Maya Moore has forever left a mark on the state of Minnesota, the Minnesota Lynx franchise and the hearts of Lynx fans everywhere," Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx owner Glen Taylor said.

"Maya's accolades are numerous; her leadership and talent both fearless and inspirational set the foundation for the most exciting and historic championship run in the league from 2011-2017.

While today culminates Maya's basketball career, there is no doubt she will continue to impact the game we all love." □

AP source: Panthers to interview Sean Payton for HC job

By **STEVE REED**
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Panthers have received permission from the New Orleans Saints to interview Sean Payton for their vacant head coaching position, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The Panthers have also requested permission to speak to Philadelphia Eagles defensive consultant Vic Fangio and New York Jets safeties coach Marquand Manuel for their defensive coordinator po-

sition.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team does not release details of its coaching searches.

Steve Wilks was the Panthers interim head coach this season and Al Holcomb the interim defensive coordinator.

The 59-year-old Payton is expected to be a hot commodity among NFL teams searching for stability at the coaching position.

He could be particularly pricey for Panthers owner

David Pepper to land given the Panthers are in the same division as the Saints and face them twice a season. New Orleans would likely receive significant draft pick compensation before agreeing to allow Payton to join the Panthers. Payton won the NFC South seven times with the Saints and the Super Bowl in the 2009 season, amassing a 152-89 record.

Fangio previously worked as the Panthers defensive coordinator more than two decades ago from 1995 to 1998. □



New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton walks on the field before an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in New Orleans, Jan. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

Nadal struggles at times during 4-set win at Australian Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Rafael Nadal never truly seemed in danger of becoming the first Australian Open defending men's champion to lose in the first round since his current coach, Carlos Moya, managed to beat Boris Becker a quarter of a century ago. Still, this was not a vintage performance by Nadal, who came into Monday's matchup against 21-year-old Jack Draper with an 0-2 record in 2023 and six losses in his past seven outings overall. After nearly two hours of so-so play, Nadal found himself even at a set apiece.

He appeared to be pulling away, taking advantage of his opponent's bout with cramps on an afternoon with the temperature at about 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius), when suddenly Draper went up by a break in the fourth set. From there, though, Nadal would not drop another game, beginning his pursuit of a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam championship with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win that took more than 3 1/2 hours in Rod Laver Arena. "I need a victory, so that's the main thing," Nadal said. "Doesn't matter the way."

That's good, then, because the 36-year-old from Spain was not in peak form. All in



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a backhand return to Jack Draper of Britain during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

all, it was a bit of a struggle. He tried to put a silver-lining spin on things, nonetheless, given his recent track record and knowing that he tore an abdominal muscle twice in the past six months. "I was humble enough to accept that (there were) going to be a little bit of ups and downs during the match," Nadal said. "(That's a) typical thing when you are not in a winning mood."

Both men are left-handers, but that is pretty much where the similarities end, whether in terms of style or age or experience or accomplishments.

Nadal, who is seeded No.

1 because top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz is sidelined with an injury, is appearing in his 67th Grand Slam tournament. Draper, ranked a career-best No. 38 this week, was making his fourth trip to a major and his best showing was getting to the third round at the U.S. Open last September.

Draper also has faced problems dealing with steamy conditions: In his ATP Tour debut at the Miami Open in March 2021, he collapsed on court and needed to stop playing after one set.

"Real honor to play against him, someone I've idolized growing up. To go toe-to-

toe with him on a big court like that is special," Draper said. "I can take away the fact that my tennis is getting closer and closer. And physically, I'll be first to say I'm still a work in progress." This time, signs of trouble showed up early, and Draper was treated by a trainer during changeovers. Later, he massaged his right thigh between points.

Nadal, not surprisingly, wore Draper down from the baseline, engaging in exchanges before finding an opening to yank a big forehand this way or that.

"When you win matches, you are more relaxed," Nadal said. "You are more

confident."

His next opponent will be Mackie McDonald, a past NCAA champion at UCLA who won an all-American matchup against Brandon Nakashima that lasted 4 hours by a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1), 1-6, 6-7 (10), 6-4 score.

The No. 1-seeded woman, Iga Swiatek, followed Nadal into Laver for the night session and found herself in a tight second set before reeling off the last four games to eliminate 69th-ranked Jule Niemeier 6-4, 7-5. Americans Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff and Danielle Collins, the 2022 runner-up at Melbourne Park, also reached the second round with straight-set victories Monday, and 2017 U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys won in three sets. Others advancing included 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu and sixth-seeded Maria Sakkari, while two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka got past 2020 winner Sofia Kenin 6-4, 7-6 (3). There were plenty of other major titlists on the packed Day 1 schedule, with Petra Kvitova, Elena Rybakina, Jelena Ostapenko and Barbora Krejcikova among the winners. But three-time Slam champ Stan Wawrinka bowed out with a 6-7 (3), 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4 loss to Alex Molcan. □

Associated Press

Panthers send Sabres to fourth loss in five games, 4-1

By **The Associated Press**

Carter Verhaeghe had a goal and an assist and the Florida Panthers beat the Buffalo Sabres 4-1 on Monday for their third win in four games.

Matthew Tkachuk finished with three assists for Florida and extended his point streak to seven games. Brandon Montour, Sam Bennett and Anton Lundell also scored for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves for his fourth win in five starts.

Florida moved percentage points ahead of Buffalo into fourth place in the Atlantic Division with the win in the opener of a three-game road trip against Atlantic Division opponents.

Alex Tuch scored for the Sabres, who have lost four of their last five games. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen stopped 30 shots.

BRUINS 6, FLYERS 0

BOSTON (AP) — David Pastrnak and Pavel Zacha scored two goals apiece, Jeremy Swayman earned

his first shutout of the season and David Krejci had three assists in his 1,000th NHL game as NHL-leading Boston halted Philadelphia's three-game win streak.

Pastrnak scored the first goal in the first period and added another during a 4-on-3 power play to start the third to help Boston win for the sixth time in seven games. The Bruins are 21-1-3 at home this season and have the best overall record in the NHL. Carter Hart stopped 14 shots before



Florida Panthers goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky (72) defends the net during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Buffalo Sabres on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

he was replaced midway through the second period by Samuel Ersson, who made nine saves the rest of

the way. The Flyers lost for just the second time in nine games. □